

SAFETY ALERT



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339



APR 20 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Accidents with Injuries -- Safety Alert 05-10

1. Two Soldiers were recently involved in separate ATV accidents, resulting in injuries that included broken ribs and head trauma. It appears that no helmets were worn, alcohol may have been a factor, and the Soldiers had not taken an approved ATV rider safety course.

2. **What were the mistakes?**


- a. Operating an ATV without wearing an approved helmet and under the influence of alcohol.
- b. Passengers riding on an ATV. Generally, ATVs are designed only for single riders.
- c. Overestimating riding skills.

3. **Lessons Learned:**

- a. All Soldiers who operate an ATV are required to attend the All Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute (ASI) certified ATV rider safety course.
- b. When operating an ATV, all Soldiers are required to wear the following: an approved helmet; impact or shatter resistant goggles or full-face shield properly attached to the helmet; leather boots or over the ankle shoes; long-sleeved shirt and pants; full-fingered gloves; and a brightly colored upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment during darkness.
- c. Do not operate a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. All ATV drivers will ensure they operate their vehicle within their capabilities. Never accept passengers on an ATV unless the ATV is approved for multi-passenger use.

4. Leaders must ensure that Soldiers understand and comply with all requirements for ATVs.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS!


MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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